

Recreation Advisory Board 2013 Annual Report

The Recreation Advisory Board meets the second Monday of each month at 12:30pm in the first floor conference room of City Hall.

Mission

Advises the City of Asheville in matters affecting recreation policies, programs, finances, and land acquisition related to total community recreation programs.

Key Accomplishments

Actions

RAB approved the proposal by the Downtown Area Residential Neighbors (DARN) to name the fountain in Pritchard Park in honor of DARN founder and park volunteer Trina Mullen who passed away in 2013.

Presentations

The Board heard presentations on projects that affect City parks and recreation facilities.

- Deferred Maintenance Plan and Updates, Operations Manager Seth Hendler provided status of the projects on the Department's Deferred Maintenance Plan that included but not limited to 1) two flood event clean ups at the John B. Lewis Soccer Complex, 2) Montford Recreation Center gymnasium improvements, 3) Azalea Park pond fishing pier.
- River-to-Ridge Initiative, Director Roderick Simmons presented the initiative as a multi-model transportation plan designed to link parks, greenways and destinations within a 14-mile greenway system linking downtown Asheville and the River Art District.
- Cultural Recreation Authority, Director Roderick Simmons kept the board up to date throughout the year on proceedings concerning the development of the CRA and the City's potential participation in conjunction with Buncombe County Recreation Services and Libraries.
- FIRST Community Resource Center, Executive Director Janet Price-Ferrell, described its services and resources to people with mental and physical disabilities; and the resources it gives to City of Asheville for its Therapeutic Recreation Program.
- Asheville Downtown Association, President Adrian Vassallo, presented its proposal to install a canopy over the stage in Pack Square Park, and donate it to the City of Asheville.
- Friends of the Nature Center, President Holly Stiles, overviewed the status of the Friends and its commitment to support capital projects and programming at the Nature Center.
- Asheville Buncombe Youth Soccer Association, Executive Director Mike Rottjakob, presented an overview of its operations and sponsorship program at the John B. Lewis Soccer Complex, and its contribution to the complex construction cost and to future contribution to capital improvement.
- Asheville Rugby Football Club, Vice President Aileen Sutton described the organization and its use of City of Asheville athletic fields

2013 NCRPA Citizen Board Member Conference

Board Vice Chair Hutch Kerns, and Board Member Josh O'Conner attended the North Carolina Recreation and Parks Association Citizen Board Member conference hosted by the City of Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department.

Board Profile and Operations

- The Recreation Advisory Board will host its annual retreat in January 2014.
- The Board re-appointed Wayne Wheeler as Chair, and Hutch Kerns as Vice-Chair for 2013-2014.
- Wayne Wheeler represented RAB on the Asheville Area Riverfront Redevelopment Commission.
- Todd Dunnuck represented RAB on the Bele Chere Board.

- RAB members attended the grand opening ceremony of the new Arachnid Adventure Playground at the Nature Center in October.
- The term of membership ended for board member John Parrish and was recognized for his years of service to the citizens of Asheville. The Board welcomed new member Bob Pierce.
- Board roster at the close of 2013:

Wayne Wheeler, Chair	Barry Mundt	Jordan Veale
Hutch Kerns, Vice Chair	Mildred Nance-Carson	Cecil Bothwell, City Council
Ashley Arrington	Josh O'Conner	Liaison
Todd Dunnuck	Bob Pierce	